

us. DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE
- WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

DEPARTMENTAL REGULATION		NUMBER: 1043-7
SUBJECT: National Generic Resource Advisory Council		DATE: March 22, 1999
		OPI: Agricultural Research Service

1 PURPOSE

- a The National Genetic Resources Advisory Council (NGRAC) is hereby renewed pursuant to Section 1634 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990. The objectives of NGRAC are to advise the Secretary of Agriculture and Director of the National Genetic Resources Program (NGRP) on the activities, policies, and operation of NGRP.
- b The task of NGRAC is to advise on acquisition, preservation, and distribution of genetic resources of life forms important to American agriculture; plants, forest species, animals, aquatics, insects, and microbes. These resources are essential to adequately address current and future problems. NGRAC is also to advise on research needs for genetic resources, on coordination of NGRP with similar domestic activities, and on **policies** on international distribution **and** exchange of genetic resources.

2 SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS/CANCELLATION

- a NGRAC is a statutory council established by the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990. This regulation will expire 2 years after date of filing.
- b Departmental Regulation 1043-7, dated December 30, 1996, is hereby superseded.
- c NGRAC may appoint such subcommittees as it **deems** necessary to carry out the functions of NGRAC. Subcommittees will be expected to provide supporting advice on components of NGRP.

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3 OFFICERS AND MEMBERSHIP

- a NGRAC is to be composed of not more than nine (9) members appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture and the following ex officio members: the Director of NGRP, the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics (REE), the Director of the National Agricultural Library, the Director of the National Institutes of Health, the Director of the National Science Foundation, the Secretary of Energy, the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, and may include other Federal members as necessary;
- b Two-thirds of the appointed members will be from the scientific disciplines relevant to NGRP, including agricultural sciences, environmental sciences, natural resource sciences, health sciences, and nutritional sciences. One-third of the appointed members will be from the general public, including leaders in, fields of public policy, trade, international development, law, or management.
- c Appointed members shall serve no more than 4 years each, with partial rotation of membership being practiced every 2 years to provide for continuity and broad representation on NGRAC.
- d The Secretary of Agriculture shall select as chairperson of NGRAC one of the appointed members. The term of the chairperson shall be 2 years.
- e Equal opportunity practices, in line with U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) policies, will be followed in all appointments to the NGRAC. To ensure that the recommendations of NGRAC have taken into account the needs of the diverse groups served by USDA, membership should include, to the extent practicable, individuals with demonstrated ability to represent minorities, women, and persons with disabilities.

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4 DUTIES

The duties of the NGRAC are to formulate recommendations on actions and policies for the collection, maintenance, and utilization of genetic resources; to make recommendations for coordination of genetic resources plans of several domestic and international organizations; and to advise the Secretary of Agriculture and the NGRP Director of new and innovative approaches to genetic resources conservation.

5 ESTIMATED ANNUAL OPERATING COST

Members of NGRAC and its subcommittees shall serve without pay, but with reimbursement of travel expenses and per diem for attendance at NGRAC and subcommittee functions. Annual operating costs are estimated at \$25,000 and 0.02 staff years.

6 NUMBER AND FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS

NGRAC will plan to meet at least two times each fiscal year. All meetings will be open to the public.

7 REPORTS/SUPPORT

a Support for NGRAC will be provided by the Agricultural Research Service.

b NGRAC may prepare such reports as it deems appropriate to the Secretary of Agriculture through the Under Secretary for REE.